



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

although the affair was regarded in England as a disastrous failure, he endorses Camden's opinion that England was in some respects a gainer from it, and maintains that "as a demonstration of the inherent weakness of Spain, which it had been Drake's life's work to teach his countrymen, it was final and complete."

To Drake, however, the Portuguese adventure brought disgrace, and in this way, as Mr. Corbett points out, proved a disaster to England. For in consequence of Drake's retirement the war "sank to mere commerce-destroying," a new state of things from which the lessons to be learned are "amongst the sharpest and most valuable" of the war. During these years of Drake's disgrace and the abandonment of his policy of offence, Spain grew constantly more powerful at sea, and England found herself at last confronted with the prospect of a new invasion still more formidable than the last. But Drake was finally recalled and thus we have the touching "Last Voyage," which, although over it hung the fatal ignorance that Spain had become a "great sea-power," nevertheless shows us the exact point to which Drake had carried the art of tactics at the moment of his death. "His work was done, his school was founded," and "even as he passed away, distraught with failure, England was fairly launched upon the course that brought her to the empire of the seas." I may perhaps be permitted to add to these closing words, that Mr. Corbett's book has so vividly emphasized the great lessons of Drake's career that the old drum at Buckland Abbey, which the legend says can summon him whenever England is in danger, need never beat again.

W. F. TILTON.

The Life and Letters of George Savile, Bart., First Marquis of Halifax, with a new edition of his Works now for the first time collected and revised. By H. C. FOXCROFT. (London, New York and Bombay: Longmans, Green and Company. 1898. Two vols., pp. xv, 511; vii, 587.)

THE thoroughness with which Miss Foxcroft has gone about her work lays students of English history of the period of the Revolution of 1688 under an indebtedness to her—an indebtedness greater than to any English woman who in recent years has engaged in historical research. Roughly speaking, three-fourths of the pages of Miss Foxcroft's two large volumes are occupied with the biography and letters of Halifax. The remaining one-fourth is given up to a collection of Halifax's political tracts and other writings; and in this department, that is as an editor, Miss Foxcroft has displayed the same industry and painstaking care as characterize the biography. The full and eventful political life of Halifax began in 1660, when, for the first and only time, he was of the House of Commons, as one of the representatives of the Yorkshire borough of Pontefract, in the Convention Parliament. Miss Foxcroft takes up Halifax's public career from this time, and goes with great ful-

ness of detail into all its political actions, until his last speech in the House of Lords in opposition to the establishment of the Bank of England, a speech which was made only a few months before his death in April, 1695, when he had been twenty-eight years in the House of Lords.

While up to the time Miss Foxcroft wrote there was no adequate biography of Halifax, there was abundant material in the published letters and memoirs of the period from the Restoration to the beginning of the Hanoverian dynasty. Miss Foxcroft has drawn largely on this material. The Savile and Hatton correspondence, in the publications of the Camden Society; the Reresby memoirs, Clarendon's correspondence, Burnet's and Somerville's memoirs, to name only a few of the authorities of this period, have all been used to the utmost advantage. It is, in fact, almost impossible to name any authority, or any printed sources of information dealing with the last half of the seventeenth century which have escaped Miss Foxcroft's attention. She has drawn less than perhaps she might have done on the Journals of the English and Irish Parliaments and on the Statutes, and has frequently used Grey, Ralph and Luttrell, both in the text and in the numerous foot-notes to every page of the biography and the collected political pamphlets of Halifax, when she might with ease and advantage have gone to first authorities like the Journals and the Statutes. Both these sources are used, but scarcely to an extent in keeping with the extraordinarily wide range of Miss Foxcroft's research; for, throughout, Miss Foxcroft has shown no disposition to save herself work. A closer familiarity with the Journals of the House of Commons in the seventeenth century could hardly have failed also to have given Miss Foxcroft a better grasp than she appears to possess of the English system of parliamentary representation at the time of the Restoration and generally in the closing years of the seventeenth century. A lack of this full comprehension of the system as it then existed, with all the anomalies and all the anachronisms which continued to characterize it until 1832, seems apparent in Miss Foxcroft's rather slight treatment of the attack upon the charters of the municipal corporations in 1682, in which Halifax, as Lord Privy Seal, necessarily had an official share. Familiarity with the Journals of the House of Commons would also have prevented Miss Foxcroft from making the mistake she does in the footnote to Halifax's famous tract, "Some Cautions Offered to the Consideration of Those Who are to Choose Members to Serve in the Ensuing Parliament." She there states that "the number of 'pocket boroughs' in Cornwall, created by the Crown toward the end of the Stuart period, is a well-known fact." The "end of the Stuart period" is a rather vague term. Even if it is taken as dating from the Restoration, Miss Foxcroft is utterly wrong; for only one borough was given parliamentary representation by the Crown after 1660. This was Newark, which was practically a pocket borough of the Saviles, and, as Miss Foxcroft brings out, was long represented by Henry Savile, Lord Halifax's brother. Familiarity with the Journals as close as with the other printed matter that Miss Foxcroft has handled so well, would also

have obviated the footnote on the same page in respect to Halifax's use of the term "a man of the robe." Miss Foxcroft says that Johnson gives no example of this expression. In the Journals it occurs scores of times, to designate the lawyers who were of the House. Scarcely an important committee was named in the seventeenth century which was not made to include "Gentlemen of the Long Robe." One is inclined to wonder that Miss Foxcroft did not pursue the parliamentary side of her subject a little further; for Halifax was one of the earliest pamphleteers in the cause of parliamentary reform. His "Cautions to Electors" is one of the best contemporary pictures extant of the House of Commons, as it existed at the time of the Restoration. Under its twenty headings are set out faults in the representative system which Parliament was finally called upon to remedy in 1832 and continued to remedy by piecemeal legislation until 1835, and set out in a way that might have stimulated Miss Foxcroft's zeal in historical research.

If Miss Foxcroft has not pushed her research among printed material quite as far as she might have done with advantage to the setting in which she places Halifax, and to the value of her footnotes, she has made extensive and excellent use of manuscript sources. She has evidently been thorough in her work on the numerous reports of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, and having discovered much material of value there, she has not contented herself with the summaries and selections of the Commission's examiners and reporters; but has gone herself to the manuscript sources. One result of this industry is the recovery of a large number of Halifax's letters, almost as many as there are in the *Savile Correspondence* of the Camden Society. Another result is a free and helpful use of what are now known as the Devonshire House Notebook and the Spencer House Journals, both written by Halifax. The Journals, in fact, are both cited in the text and printed in their entirety as an appendix to the chapter covering the period with which they deal. The manuscripts in the British Museum, those in the State Paper Office, and those in the Bodleian Library, have also been exhaustively examined; so have the Longleat and other private collections, with the result that Miss Foxcroft has recovered and printed everything that Halifax wrote which is now extant, and which throws any light on his career.

At two or three places in the text, Miss Foxcroft distinctly states that she is not writing a history of the Restoration and Revolution periods. But her setting for the biography of the "Trimmer" is full and self-contained, and adequate for any student of these periods. She is an admirer of Halifax, and whether consciously or unconsciously shows a fondness for bringing him out of most difficulties, complications and compromising situations with flying colors. Halifax is to remain under no stigma which Miss Foxcroft's research can remove. She is as ready to remove a slur on Halifax's domestic morals as she is zealous to show that his attitude towards religion was not that so long imputed to him, or to show that he did not insist on dealing with the Popish Plot in 1679 ut-

terly heedless of the truth regarding it ; to clear him of any originaive and active part in the attack on the charters of the municipal corporations in 1682 ; to free him from Macaulay's charge of voluptuousness, and from Dalrymple's charge of evincing that "indetermination of spirit which commonly makes literary men of no use in the world." Or again she tries to put Halifax clear of the intrigues of Admiral Russell with the Prince of Orange shortly before the birth of the Prince of Wales in 1688 ; to repudiate Ranke's charge of political supineness at the time when the London clergy were coming to their decision with respect to the promulgation in the churches of the second Declaration of Indulgence in May of the same year ; to justify his part in the Hungerford negotiations, when the Prince of Orange was marching on London ; or to quote another and the last of what might be made a long list of examples, to make clear that Halifax was in no way responsible for the long delay which occurred in 1689 in bringing about the reduction of Ireland.

With regard to Halifax's moral delinquency, Miss Foxcroft is ingenious. "Besides his legitimate descendants," she writes, "the Marquis, it has been generally supposed, left at least one illegitimate son. Henry Carey, the poet, grandfather of Edmund Kean, is said to have professed himself the offspring of the Marquis of Halifax ; he gave all his children the baptismal name of Savile, and report assigned to him a pension at the hands of the Savile family. As Carey, however, eighteen years after the death of his reputed father, described himself as still 'very young,' a phrase which then bore a less extended significance than at present, it may be doubted whether confusion has not arisen between the Marquis and some other member of the Savile connection." And to add to this doubt, Miss Foxcroft cites in a footnote a codicil made by the second Marquis of Halifax on his deathbed, August 21, 1700, by which the estate of the Marquis was charged with £55 yearly to be disposed as he had directed by word of mouth to the Earl of Nottingham and Mr. Conyers. These quotations are characteristic of the consistent care which Miss Foxcroft shows throughout her biography for Halifax's reputation in both public and private life. As regards the general character of the Marquis, and his place in the history of the Revolution, Miss Foxcroft offers no estimate. The scheme of her work, she adds, precludes any formal attempt at analysis. But no student will regard this as a shortcoming, for Miss Foxcroft has dealt so fully and so much in the spirit of a student with all the more important events and crises in Halifax's life, from the Exclusion controversy to the death of Queen Mary, that in respect to them it has been made possible for every student to gauge Halifax by the standard that President Fisher of the American Historical Association set up at the recent meeting at New Haven, and answer for himself "In a crisis, did this man cast his lot on the right side, and was he unselfish and brave?" In the greatest crisis of all, when at the last stage Halifax threw in his lot with the Revolution, time has long ago proved that he was right.

It is not always possible to congratulate Miss Foxcroft on the easy flow of her narrative ; she has a proneness to italics which is irritating, and adds no strength to her writing. Many of the footnotes are trivial, and many others could with advantage have been embodied in the text ; and while there is an index so full and complete that it extends over forty pages, a bibliography is lacking. To students, however, these are minor drawbacks, excepting perhaps the absence of a bibliography ; and they do not to any appreciable extent reduce the indebtedness students are under to Miss Foxcroft for a biography and a collection of letters and political tracts, which will always rank among the most serviceable books of the Revolution period, and demand a place alongside the best of those drawn upon in her work.

EDWARD PORRITT.

Introduction à l'Histoire Littéraire. Par P. LACOMBE, Inspecteur Général des Bibliothèques et des Archives. (Paris: Hachette. 1898. Pp. viii, 420.)

THIS book is a collection of essays on certain aspects of French literature and of French literary criticism rather than a comprehensive view of the study of literature in general. The author himself, to be sure, is convinced that, as Aristotle based his system of *poetics* exclusively upon a consideration of Greek poetry, so the modern science of literature might be based, to a large extent at least, upon the accurate study of the literature of a single people. Or, to quote a comparison used by M. Lacombe himself, as the physicist is assured that an apple falls vertically to the ground in an unexplored country no less than in his own garden, so he, without having studied Arab, Chinese or Hindu literature, feels nevertheless assured that these literatures are governed essentially by the same laws of thought and expression as the literature of his own native country. Without entering here upon the question whether this comparison does not disclose a somewhat mechanical conception of literary problems, one cannot help regretting that a critic of such rare acumen and originality as M. Lacombe should not have extended his observation to wider fields ; that he should not have attempted a comparative study of at least the principal literatures of ancient and modern Europe. A book which fails to bring before us at least the general trend of the literary development of the great nations of the world's history, can hardly be called an introduction to the study of literature.

Within the limits set to it by the author's fundamental self-restriction, the book contains a great variety of keen reflections and brilliant suggestions. It is essentially the work of a thinker ; and in these days when the domain of literary investigation is well-nigh monopolized by the compilers, it is a genuine pleasure to meet a man who is earnestly in search of first principles. The contrast between this book of M. Lacombe's and a recent German production of a similar scope, Professor Elster's *Prinzipien der Literaturwissenschaft*, is indeed striking. While